

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 3, 9-14, 20, and 21 are presently pending and stand rejected. Claims 5-8, and 15-19 are cancelled without prejudice.

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious from Ritchey in view of Salmonsens. Claim 1 is amended to recite, among other limitations, "wherein the audio and visual information are obtained from a first plurality of audio and video encoders that perform that process the acquired audio and visual information for transmission; and wherein a plurality of audio and video decoders corresponding to the audio and video encoders project the audio and visual information, wherein each of the audio and video decoders project the audio and visual information obtained by the corresponding one of the plurality of audio and video encoders."

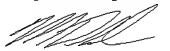
Assignee respectfully submits that Ritchey, modified by Salmonsens does not teach the foregoing. It is noted that in Ritchey, "The computer *integrates* the sensor signals, processes signals as a virtual model, updates the model based on participant interaction, and selects and distributes portions of the processed virtual model for presentation on display units and audio speakers." Ritchey, Abstract.

In contrast, in the now claimed invention, "each of the audio and video decoders project the audio and visual information obtained by the corresponding one of the plurality of audio and video encoders."

Accordingly, Assignee respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1 as now amended, 9 and 20 (see amendments) and to dependent claims 2, 3, 10, 11, 12, 13, and 21.

For at least the foregoing reasons, each of the pending claims are in a condition for allowance and such a notice is respectfully requested. Please charge any required fees not paid herewith or credit any overpayment to the Deposit Account of McAndrews, Held & Malloy, Ltd., Account No. 13-0017. Should anything remain in order to place the present application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



Mirut Dalal
Registration No. 44,052
Attorney for Assignee

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McAndrews, Held & Malloy, Ltd.
500 West Madison Street, 34th Floor
Chicago, Illinois 60661

Phone (312) 775-8000
FAX (312) 775-8100